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(54) Title: WATER BASED WELLBORE FLUIDS

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to water based wellbore fluids used during a hydrocarbon recovery process, such as drilling, fracturing, gravel packing and wellbore workover. According to the present invention, said wellbore fluid comprises a fluid loss additive and a bridging material that are hydrophobic in nature, hydrophobically modified or oil wettable. The wellbore fluid generates an active filter cake that once formed, is impermeable to an aqueous phase, thus reducing fluid loss and ensuring reduced damage to the formation, yet simultaneously is permeable to the back flow of hydrocarbons during a hydrocarbon recovery process.